

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECORD KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Meeting Location: Kivalina, Alaska, Boys and Girls Club

Meeting Date: March 30, 2004

Purpose: Identify public issues and concerns with BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area.

Number of public in attendance: 8

BLM personnel in attendance: Jeanie Cole, Shelly Jacobson, Dave Parker, and Randy Meyers.

Meeting format: Through a PowerPoint presentation, attendees were introduced to what an RMP does and why BLM is doing a new one. They were also given examples of decisions that might come out of an RMP. They had the opportunity to review maps of land status, State-identified RS2477 routes, reindeer grazing allotments, anadromous streams, Seward 1008 PLO locations (mineral entry), guide use areas, and game management units in the Planning Area. Participants were asked to express their concerns and issues with BLM-managed public lands. These are documented below. An Interested Party letter explaining the types of decisions made in the RMP and giving an overview of the initial steps in planning was distributed. In addition, a small-scale map of the planning area, a copy of the planning website home page, and copy of the PowerPoint presentation were available for attendees to take. A scoping comment sheet that can either be filled out at the meeting or returned to BLM at a later date was also made available to attendees.

Issues/Questions/Concerns:

1. There has been a lot of interest in mineral exploration on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers. These two rivers are very important to the people of Kivalina for fishing and drinking water.
2. People have noticed caribou from the Kobuk Valley have a lot more of a red color to the meat compared to the meat from caribou around Kivalina. Caribou meat from Kivalina area is greyer and not as tasty. Is there better forage upriver?
3. Noticing a lot of guide activity on the Wulik River. People are flown in from Kotzebue, when the plane leaves, all their trash is there. There are problems with the trash and also less moose.
4. People in rafts and canoes float the rivers. They are dropped off by plane. They take out near Kivalina and then fly out. They float right to the airport and leave. There could be some economic opportunity for the village if people stopped there for a time before leaving.

5. The smoke from non-emergency campfires alerts the caribou in the fall and causes less successful hunts. Campers should be encouraged to use a primus stove rather than big campfires during the caribou migration.
6. There have been numerous (maybe 3000+) documented water quality violations on the Wulik River since the Red Dog Mine began. The mine turns their water quality results over to the city of Kivalina since it is their primary source of drinking water. The water is tested monthly.
7. Kivalina needs a mechanism to check water quality in-house to protect the people who drink the water.
8. Need better enforcement on mine effluent.
9. Noticed a decline in fish numbers and quality over the years. One fish was so soft coming out of the net that it broke in half. This is attributed to poor water quality.
10. Lead and zinc in the road dust from the Red Dog Mine is covering vegetation that the caribou eat (lichen etc.). During migration, caribou congregate along road and feed on dusty roadside vegetation. If mining is authorized on BLM land, we should learn from the Red Dog experience and avoid some of the problems.
11. Might like to look at special designation to protect the Kivalina and Wulik Rivers. Editor's Note: May be able to look into designating the BLM part of these watersheds as ACECs. The Kivalina River is about six miles away. Leave it alone—it is wild and scenic now. Nice canyon upriver, opens up into a nice wide valley, very scenic.
12. Need special consideration of caribou migration routes and calving areas. Caribou from the Western Arctic herd aggregate near the Kivalina River post calving. Caribou die-offs in the past north of Kivalina.
13. Cultural sites exist on the Kivalina River. May need special protection (old mud house cabins).
14. Trying to get Kivalina Relocation process going but are currently at a standstill—massive amounts of gravel will be needed for the relocation.
15. Reindeer Grazing: several people remembered past reindeer herds in Kivalina. One young man had a grandfather who had reindeer. Another woman's dad had reindeer before she was born. Another woman remembered corralling/handlings in the winter.
16. Some harvest of logs from upriver during whaling. Most people use driftwood for firewood.